

**Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier**

February 17, 2011

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Senate Resolution No. 9—Relative to California Teen Safe Driving Week.

1 WHEREAS, Law enforcement and other first responders,  
2 teachers, parents, and friends are all deeply impacted by the loss  
3 of teens from motor vehicle crashes on California’s roadways; and  
4 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of  
5 death for teens in the United States accounting for more than one  
6 in three deaths; and  
7 WHEREAS, Per mile driven, teen drivers 16 to 19 years of age  
8 are four times more likely to crash than older drivers; and  
9 WHEREAS, In 2009, more than 3,000 teens in the United States  
10 15 to 19 years of age were killed and more than 350,000 were  
11 treated in emergency rooms for injuries suffered in motor vehicle  
12 crashes; and  
13 WHEREAS, Seventy-seven percent of the 16-year-old drivers  
14 killed in motor vehicle crashes in California were at fault; and  
15 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of all fatal teen collisions are  
16 caused by reckless and distracted driving and about 25 percent of  
17 the fatalities involve alcohol and drugs; and  
18 WHEREAS, Drivers who use handheld devices such as cell  
19 phones, are four times more likely to get into crashes that cause  
20 serious injury; and  
21 WHEREAS, Thirty-four percent of teens 16 and 17 years of age  
22 who say they have texted while driving and 48 percent of all teens  
23 12 to 17 years of age say they have been in a car when the driver  
24 was texting; and

1 WHEREAS, Despite the fact that California has the highest rate  
2 of seat belt usage in the nation, 37 percent of the 16-year-old  
3 passengers who died in motor vehicle crashes in California were  
4 not wearing seat belts; and

5 WHEREAS, Approximately two-thirds of the deaths of teen  
6 passengers 13 to 19 years of age occur when other teens are  
7 driving; and

8 WHEREAS, One in three teen drivers are involved in motor  
9 vehicle crashes during their first year of driving; and

10 WHEREAS, There is no in-car driver training in California's  
11 high schools and although driver's education is required in  
12 California's public school curriculum, only about one-third of the  
13 high schools actually offer it due to budget and staff limitations;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, A 16-year-old soccer player has had about 1,500  
16 hours of coached soccer practice, but only 50 hours of driving  
17 practice before getting his or her license; and

18 WHEREAS, A manicurist is required to have 400 supervised  
19 hours of training in order to get a license, but a teen driver needs  
20 only six hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience supervised  
21 by a professional; and

22 WHEREAS, It is necessary to raise awareness; reach teens,  
23 parents, and teachers; and influence change in risky driving  
24 behavior in order to reduce the number of teens killed on  
25 California's roadways each year; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
27 week of March 6, 2011, be declared "California Teen Safe Driving  
28 Week"; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That with the help of law enforcement organizations,  
30 teachers, parents, students, and the Impact Teen Drivers program,  
31 a nonprofit organization aimed at stopping reckless and distracted  
32 teen driving, the State of California will observe the week of March  
33 6, 2011, with appropriate activities that promote the practice of  
34 safe driving among teen drivers.